

TAPROOT THEATRE

C O M P A N Y

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Kill Date: June 15, 2008

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Over the River and Through the Woods

**TAPROOT THEATRE PRESENTS COMEDY RELEVANT TO STUDENTS
ABOUT TO GRADUATE AND LEAVE HOME**

Steep discount offered on High School Night, May 28

SEATTLE – April 15, 2008 – High School Night at Taproot Theatre Company this spring features a hilarious and heartwarming comedy about leaving home that high school students preparing to graduate and go off to college are bound to relate to. Joe DiPietro's *Over the River and Through the Woods* is the story of a young Italian-American man leaving New Jersey to pursue a career in Seattle, and his two sets of grandparents who conspire to get him to stay. Taproot Theatre is hosting High School Night on May 28 at 7:30 p.m. with tickets for high school students available for just \$10.

When Nick gets offered a promotion in Seattle, an offer that promises him fulfilled dreams and a new life, he jumps at the opportunity. His only obstacle: his traditional Italian grandparents, who propose a compelling reason to stay in New Jersey – the lovely and single Caitlin O'Hare. Their weekly Sunday dinners turn into a comic dance, as the entire family tires to influence Nick's choice.

Taproot Theatre Company strives to make live theatre accessible to students who may be financially strapped by offering a High School Night for select productions. Taproot also offers a \$2 discount for students and a \$15 ticket to people ages 25 and under for all performances during the regular season. To purchase tickets, contact the box office

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at 206.781.9707. Half-price rush tickets are available at the box office to students 15 minutes prior to curtain when available.

Over the River and Through the Woods, directed by Scott Nolte, runs from May 16 through June 14 with low-price previews on May 14 & 15, plus a Pay What You Can performance on May 21. Taproot Theatre is also bringing back Late-Night Improv after the performances on four Fridays (May 23, 30, June 6 and 13). *Go Forth! An Improv Adventure* is a brand-new comedy about life transitions, developed just in time for graduation season and Father's Day (fact sheet included).

Over the River and Through the Woods is sponsored in part by KUOW and Puget Sound Energy. Seasonal support is generously provided by 4Culture; ArtsFund; The Boeing Company; The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences; Ellis, Li & McKinstry PLLC; Hagen, Kurth, Perman & Co., CPA's; Microsoft; PONCHO; The Seattle Foundation; Viking Bank; and Washington State Arts Commission.

About the production

This heartwarming comedy by the playwright behind the hit comedy *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* illustrates the love between generations of family members, and how traditions survive – but transform – throughout generations.

"Seldom do you find a play that is so funny and celebrates the family as much as *Over the River and Through the Woods*," Nolte said. "As family members disperse, taking jobs or retiring to the far reaches of the country, and as cultural differences seem so distinct between grandparents and grandkids, this play reminds us – hilariously so – how much we have in common and the love we share."

Over the River and Through the Woods features a comical cast of Kevin Brady as Nick, Charity Parenzini as Caitlin, and Kim Morris, Nolan Palmer, Bill Johns and Gretchen Douma as the grandparents. The production team includes sound and scenic designer Mark Lund, costume designer Mandy Mueller and lighting designer Monty Taylor. Rebecca Olson serves as stage manager and Judy Naegeli as dramaturg.

About Taproot Theatre

Taproot Theatre Company is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a multi-faceted production program. Founded in 1976, Taproot Theatre serves the Pacific Northwest with Mainstage Productions, Touring Productions and Acting Studio. Taproot exists to create theatre that explores the beauty and questions of life while bringing hope to our search for meaning. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS), and the Greenwood-Phinney Chamber of Commerce.

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Go Forth! An Improv Adventure
Late-Night Improv FACT SHEET

- WHAT:** *Go Forth! An Improv Adventure*
Created by Darrell Olson and Danny Walter.
New grads, fathers and all those who love them, beware! Life is full of discoveries, challenges, failures and triumphs. In this improvised tale of adventure, Taproot's actors use the audience's suggestions as the building blocks for a performance of epic (and hilarious) proportions!
- WHEN:** Fridays, May 23, 30, June 6 and 13, after *Over the River and Through the Woods*
- WHERE:** Taproot Theatre
204 North 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98103
- TICKETS:** Tickets are just \$10, or \$8 with your ticket to *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Contact Taproot Theatre's Box Office at 206.781.9707 or box@taproottheatre.org to purchase your tickets.